

Student Name:

Date:

## Guided Notes: Intelligent Design on Trial

Over the last eighty years, few topics have remained as consistently divisive as the teaching of creationism in public school classrooms. Since the infamous Scopes “monkey trial” in 1925, there continues to be a debate about whether creationism should also be taught in public schools. In the Scopes trial, called *The State of Tennessee vs. Thomas Scopes*, a teacher was convicted of teaching evolution at a public school in violation of a state ban. Later, in 1968, in a case called *Epperson v. Arkansas*, the Supreme Court of the United States held that such teaching bans were unconstitutional and in violation of the First Amendment of the Constitution.

The First Amendment states: Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

Since 1968, people in favor of teaching creationism keep trying to figure out how to modify school curricula and inject antievolution material into public school classes. Most recently, in Dover, Pennsylvania, members of the school board tried to require science teachers to teach Intelligent Design.

In class and for homework, you will watch a film called “Intelligent Design on Trial” produced by PBS’ NOVA about the Dover “panda trial” called *Kitzmiller v. Dover Area School District*.

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While watching the film, please take notes in this packet and complete the questions as assigned for homework.

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**Classwork: Answer the following questions on Episode One. Use complete sentences and avoid vague words.**

1. Describe the piece of art that first ignited signs of trouble in the town of Dover, Pennsylvania.

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2. Why did this piece of artwork create a conflict or rift or division?

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3. At the time, Dover's school board only included Darwin's theory of evolution in the curriculum. What did the school board want to require science teachers to do under its new policy?

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4. What is the name of this controversial idea?

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5. Who was on the side of the school board? What type of professions? What do they believe?

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6. Who was against the side of the school board? What type of professions? What do they believe?

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**HOMEWORK: Watch episode two and answer the following questions. This is not group work. Use complete sentences and avoid vague language. Episode two can be found at:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qoadn5zXNnw&t=338s>

**The link is also posted on the wikispace homework page.**

7. How do creationists view evolution?

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8. What was the “chilling effect” of the Scopes trial and how long did it last?

What did textbook publishers do as a result of that trial?

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9. According to the United States Supreme Court, if teachers in public school

teach creationism what rights of students are being violated?

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10. Why didn't Bill Buckingham from the Dover School Board's curriculum committee order the biology book that the teachers requested?

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11. According to Darwin, what is natural selection and how does the environment of an organism help the organism to adapt or evolve?

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12. How much of the United States population still does not accept the theory of evolution and why?

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## Guided Notes: Intelligent Design on Trial

**In your groups, please answer the following questions on Episodes Three and Four. Use complete sentences and avoid vague language.**

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13. What causes the Dover School Board Meeting to erupt in chaos and become a madhouse?

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14. What creates a potential bias for the reporter Lauri Lebo relating to her father's radio station?

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15. What idea did Richard Thompson of the Thomas More Law Center introduce to Bill Buckingham? What did he think that this idea could allow Buckingham to accomplish?

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16. Who is the intelligent being or designer?

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17. How is this idea of intelligent design a compromise that is acceptable for creationists like Bill Buckingham?

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18. What did the Dover school board's new policy require that science teachers read to all students of Biology?

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19. After two members of the school board resigned in protest, what did Tammy Kitzmiller do along with ten parents?

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20. What did the science teachers do as a result? Give one detailed reason for their actions.

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21. What did the attorney for the defendants, the Dover School Board believe that intelligent design is? What did they intend to prove at trial?

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22. What people got involved and backed the Dover School Board and made this a national issue? What do those people favor?

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23. What fundamental question did both sides of the trial, the parents and school board members, want the judge to answer?

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